Setting up of 900 MW Power Plant at Raigarh or Dhule

*253. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra has requested the Central Government to accord approval for the setting up of a 900 MW Power Plant either at Raigarh or at Dhule; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) In June, 1984, a feasibility report for the setting up of a gas turbine power station near Uran in the Raigad district was received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), from the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB). As the requisite gas was not available, the scheme could not be pursued further and the MSEB were informed accordingly in January, 1986. In August, 1988, the Government of Maharashtra had referred, *inter alia*, to the setting up of a gas turbine station (8x108 MW) either in the Raigad district or in the Dhule District.

The Maharashtra authorities have proposed revival of the Uran scheme for which the gas linkage has yet to be established. In the meanwhile, the MSEB have been advised to update the cost estimates and furnish a proper feasibility report for the scheme which could be processed for techno-economic clearance after the fuel availability is confirmed, the requisite inputs have been tied up and the necessary clearances have been obtained by the State Electricity Board.

Circle-wise approval of P&T Budget

*254. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for approving the Posts and Telecommunications Budget Circle-wise with powers for re-appropriation to the Circle Managers; and

(b) whether Government consider that such a step would give more flexibility to implement the development plans quicker and to the desired results ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: (a) There is no such proposal to submit circle-wise budget to the Parliament. After the Budgets of the two Departments as a whole are approved by Parliament, funds are placed at the disposal of the postal and Telecom. Circles as per their needs and requirements as projected in their budget proposals. Limited powers of re-appropriation have already been given to the Heads of the Circles under working expenses.

(b) Since the funds are allotted to the Circles as per their requirements depending upon overall availability, it is felt, that deviation from the existing procedure may not be of much help.

Plan to double the oil production during Eighth Plan Period

*255. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has planned to double the oil production during the Eighth Five Year Plan Period;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what would be the total investment to achieve the target ?